

09/407003

FACE DETECTION IN DIGITAL IMAGES

- 5 The present invention relates to the detection of faces in digital images. Rather than subjecting the entire image (1) to computationally intensive face detection analysis, the image is subjected to computationally simple analysis to identify candidate pixels likely to be of skin colour. Only those pixels having such colour, which may be determined in a number of ways, are subject to computationally intensive face detection analysis. The
- 10 image is preferably divided into regions (2) each of which is then analysed for features indicative of skin colour. The simple analysis is based on lighting conditions associated with the capture of the image and preferably utilizes the selection of one of a number of skin colour models associated with a range of lighting conditions.